

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the captioned patent application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A clothing attachment device for an external component of a hearing prosthesis, the attachment device comprising:

an elongate member adapted to pass through at least a portion of an item of clothing;
an engagement housing; housing having disposed therein

a plurality of non-spherical engagement members disposed in the engagement housing
and collectively adapted to receive configured to receive releasably engage at least a portion of the elongate member and releasably engage with said engagement members; and

an unlocking a magnetic unlocking device configured to apply a magnetic field to the non-spherical engagement members to release said elongate member from said non-spherical engagement members when said elongate member is engaged to said magnetic unlocking device is in proximity to said non-spherical engagement members,

wherein at least one of said elongate member and said engagement housing is configured to be mounted to the external component.

2. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 1 wherein claim 1, wherein the elongate member is a pin member extending from a proximal end to a distal end.

3. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 2 wherein claim 2, wherein the pin member extends outwardly from a casing of the external component to its distal end.

4. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 3 wherein claim 3, wherein the proximal end of the pin member is integrally connected to the casing.

5. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 1 wherein claim 1, wherein the elongate member comprises a head and a pin member extending from the head to a distal end.
6. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 1 wherein claim 1, wherein the engagement housing is mounted to a casing of the external component.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 7 claim 6, wherein the orifice extends from the front surface to a chamber within the engagement housing.
9. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 8 wherein claim 8, wherein the chamber of the engagement housing has a inner wall of which at least a portion thereof is frusto-conical such that the chamber expends in diameter away from the front surface of the engagement housing.
10. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 9 wherein claim 9, wherein the non-spherical engagement members are configured to engage the elongate housing further comprises a pin engagement mechanism that frictionally engages the pin member on insertion of the elongate member pin member through the orifice and into the chamber.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of claim 1, wherein said plurality of non-spherical engagement members are metallic members.
- 13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of ~~claim 14~~ claim 12, wherein a biasing means is positioned within the chamber which, when in its relaxed condition, displaces the plurality of engagement members towards the front surface of the engagement housing and into the engaging configuration.

16. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of ~~claim 15~~ wherein claim 15, wherein the biasing means is a spring and plate, the spring being mounted between a rearward end of the chamber and the plate, and the plate being mounted to a forward end of the spring.

17. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of ~~claim 16~~ wherein claim 16, wherein the ~~magnetic~~ unlocking device is a magnet, and the having a magnetic field of a strength ~~has a~~ strength sufficient to overcome the bias provided on the engagement members by the biasing means and so cause the engagement members to move rearwardly relative to the chamber when brought adjacent a rear surface of the engagement housing.

18. (Currently Amended) The clothing attachment device of ~~claim 1~~ wherein claim 1, wherein the hearing prosthesis is a cochlear implant.

19. (Currently Amended) An external component of a medical device, the external component comprising:

a casing;

at least one processor of said medical device disposed adjacent said in the casing;

an engagement housing having disposed therein—a plurality of non-spherical engagement members disposed therein and mounted to the casing; and

an elongate member adapted to configured to pass through at least a portion of an item of clothing and be and to be received in the engagement housing, wherein the non-spherical engagement members are configured to releasably engage said elongate member; and releasably engage with said engagement members;

wherein the engagement of said elongate member non-spherical engagement members are configured to release the elongate member upon application of a magnetic field to the non-spherical engagement members via a magnetic unlocking device, and said engagement housing is releasable by an unlocking device.

20. (Original) The external component of claim 19 wherein the medical device is a cochlear implant.

21. (Currently Amended) An external component of a partially implantable medical device, the external component comprising:

a casing;

at least one processor of said medical device ~~disposed adjacent said~~ disposed in the casing;

an elongate member having a disc and a pin member adapted extending from the disc configured to pass through at least a portion of an item of clothing; and

a pin member engagement device having a plurality of magnetic spheres disposed in a circular arrangement within a non-magnetic chamber, the chamber having an inner wall, of which at least a portion is frusto-conical such that the chamber expands in diameter away from a front surface of the engagement device, the pin engagement device also having a spring acting and mounted and configured to act between a rearward end of the chamber and a plate, the spring being adapted to urge the plate against the spheres within the chamber;

wherein an orifice is formed in the engagement device to enable entry of the pin member into the chamber, chamber and thereafter frictionally engage with the plurality of spheres are configured to engage the pin member, the engagement of the pin member being releasable by a magnet configured to act acting on said plurality of magnetic spheres and having a magnetic field of a strength sufficient to overcome the bias provided a force exerted on the spheres by the spring and so cause the spheres to move rearwardly relative to the chamber.

22. (Currently Amended) An external component of a partially implantable medical device, the external component comprising:

a casing;

at least one processor of said medical device disposed adjacent said in the casing;

an elongate member extending outwardly from the casing and adapted to pass through at least a portion of an item of clothing; and

a receiving means adapted to receive at least a portion of the elongate member and releasably engage the elongate member, therewith;

wherein the engagement of said elongate member and said said receiving means is configured to release the elongate member upon application of a magnetic field to the receiving means by releasable by an unlocking a magnetic unlocking device.

23. (Original) The external component of claim 22, wherein the medical device is a cochlear implant.

24. (Currently Amended) An external component of a partially implantable medical device, the external component comprising:

a casing;

an elongate member;

at least one processor of said medical device disposed in the casing said-external-device;

a retaining means for frictionally retaining at least one portion a portion of the elongate member in a first configuration and for releasing the at least a portion one portion in a second configuration; and

a biasing means for biasing the retaining means into the first configuration; and
configuration;

wherein the retaining means is incorporated into the external component to enable is
configured to enable the external component to be fastened to an item of clothing worn by a user of the external component; medical device when the retaining means is frictionally retaining the said the at least a portion one portion of the elongate member, member, and wherein the retaining
means is configured to transition from the first configuration to the second configuration upon
application of a magnetic field thereto.

25. (Original) The external component of claim 24, wherein the elongate member is releasable from the retaining means by momentarily counteracting the biasing means to cause the retaining means to assume the second configuration.

26. (Original) The external component of claim 25, wherein at least a part of the retaining means comprises a magnetic material and the biasing means is counteracted by applying a magnetic field to the at least a part of the retaining means.

27. (Original) The external component as claimed in claim 26, wherein the biasing means is a spiral spring.

28. (Original) The external component as claimed in claim 27, wherein the retaining means comprises a plurality of spheres disposed in a substantially circular arrangement within a chamber.

29. (Previously Presented) The external component of claim 28, wherein the medical device is a cochlear implant.